

Executive Registry

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April 16, 1982

The Honorable William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I hope you will agree with me that the time has come to revive one of the projects you and I discussed some years back, the establishment of a National Historical Intelligence Museum. Some of the changes in the intervening years are obvious, such as a change in attitude in both the Executive Branch and the Congress. Expanded educational efforts have helped -- the establishment and nationwide activities of AFIO, the projects of NISC, the Consortium for the Study of Intelligence, the Welch Fund, along with expanded outreach efforts of the Agency and some, at least, of the learned and professional societies. Another, very important one is an outpouring of printed and audiovisual materials on which the exhibits of the museum can be based.

We have established the National Historical Intelligence Museum as a non-profit, educational, tax-exempt organization. We are reviewing possible sites in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Pennsylvania. We have a good working board and are beginning to approach people about serving on a general advisory board or specialized advisory panels (ie. history and intelligence). Our fundraising effort is beginning with approaches to selected foundations and individuals. Hopefully, approaches to corporations will follow before too long. We have a proposed budget and reams of raw materials from which museum content can be extracted.

The museum will describe, within appropriate security considerations, significant intelligence achievements, developments and personalities, using a wide variety of visual displays and audio presentations. A summary note on possible content is enclosed for your review.

Such a collection would go far to increase public understanding of the intelligence community and its efforts. The museum would parallel and complement what other museums attempt in related areas - air and space, (Smithsonian and Cape Kennedy) aviation development (Wright Patterson), nuclear

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technology, the FBI, naval, army and marine history, and specialized areas of military preparation and warfare (eg. ordnance). Such existing museums, each in its own way, "beat the drums" for a particular activity. Up to now, the activity which in many ways needs it the most, U.S. intelligence, has made no such attempt to attract an expanded national constituency from a leadership and general public which now visits museums by the millions.

John Bross has offered to get the project a hearing with you and Admiral Inman, to whom I am also sending materials on it.

For now, we hope you will be willing to help us in five critical areas:

- (1) In advising us on people in and out of Government with whom you suggest we be in early touch. (If you are willing, I'll send you or whomever you suggest the list of people suggested thus far for the advisory board).
- (2) In helping us to procure a site, preferably, of course, a building, perhaps a government building or a part of one - if possible in the District; if not, in Virginia near historic, tourist - attracting sites.
- (3) In helping us to approach foundations which do not accept proposals from general sources, notably the Anneberg Fund and related foundations.
- (4) Advising us with which Agency employees we might work in developing this project, perhaps someone on your staff, in the public affairs office, in the Center for the Study of Intelligence and in the History and Archives offices.
- (5) Supporting our requests to individuals and organizations for contributed or loaned photographic materials, artifacts and other potential museum content.

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Our thanks for considering these proposals. I should be pleased to forward any further information on proposed content, or in response to any questions you might have.

I know from your historical writing, your continuing interest in NISC and our talks of some years ago, you will give this project a very interested hearing. I hope, working together, we can develop a national intelligence museum, combining private and public efforts, more interesting than the traditional war museums and much more comprehensive than any existing museums in the U.S. with content relating to intelligence.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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[Redacted Name] President  
National Historical  
Intelligence Museum

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cc: Admiral Inman DDCI  
John A. Bross